

Submission No: 180

**From:** Helen Quinn  
**Sent:** 16 November 2020 16:59  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Clare County Development Plan  
**Attachments:** Kilmurry Community Plan DRAFT.docx

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**From:** Carmel Carey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 November 2020 15:35  
**To:** Helen Quinn  
**Cc:** Martina Minogue; Michael Gleeson  
**Subject:** Clare County Development Plan

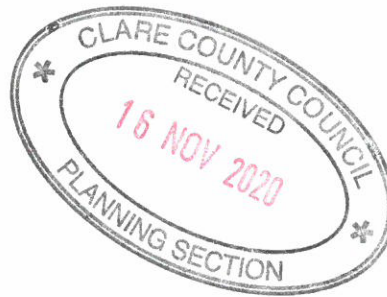
Dear Helen

Please find attached the working draft of Kilmurry Community Development Plan for consideration in the County Development Plan.

We anticipate having the draft finalised before the end of this month and will forward same to you on completion.

Thanking you

Kind Regards  
Carmel Carey  
Kilmurry Community Planning Group





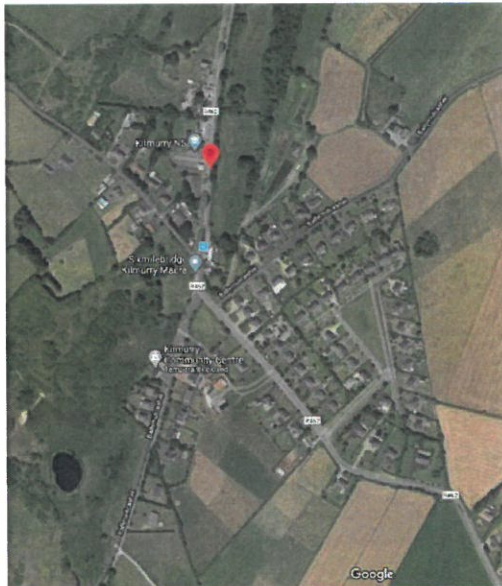
## 1. Introduction

This plan has been prepared on behalf of the community in Kilmurry by the Kilmurry Community Planning Group and is the result of a community consultation process which included several community planning meetings, a survey of all households in the Kilmurry area along with a number of post survey meetings and discussions.

The planning process has been supported by Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) under the Clare LEADER programme which provided the community with a professional facilitator to assist and advise on each aspect of the community planning process.

The majority of community consultation meetings and administration of the community survey took place in late 2019. The review and writing process took place in early 2020 and while the process was disrupted by the COVID 19 lockdown, the final report will be completed in November 2020.

## 2. Kilmurry

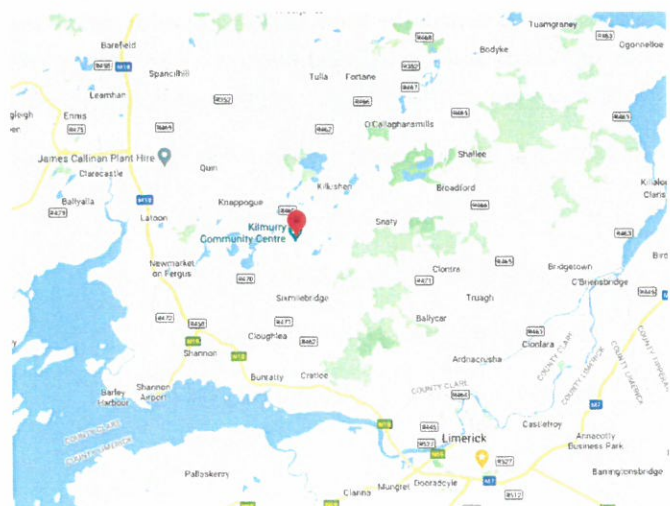


The village of Kilmurry is located in the heart of East Clare approximately 5km north of the town of Sixmilebridge. The village itself has a 'traditional informal layout' centred around the 'five cross roads' and the Ballymulcashel housing development on the eastern side of the village. Public buildings in the village consist of the church, the community centre, the primary school and 'The Pumphouse' bar. There are also a number of heritage buildings evident. The early 1800 Lime Kiln, on the north side of the school, is undergoing conservation works by the local Tidy Towns group, in conjunction with the owners, under the Heritage Councils Adopt a Monument Scheme.

As a result of Kilmurry's proximity to a number of larger towns (e.g. Limerick, Shannon, Ennis, Sixmilebridge etc.) the majority of retail and services are accessed outside

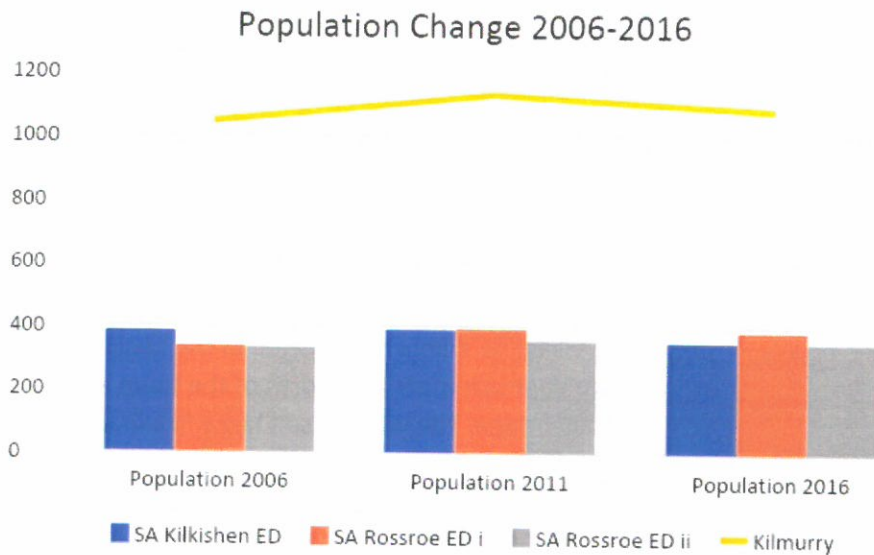
the village itself.

The village's location on one of the main feeder roads for people commuting from various locations across east Clare to Shannon and Limerick and the large recent housing development in the village have been the key influences on the life of the area in recent years. However, the strong community spirit in the village, epitomised by the annual 'Harvest Festival' and the large number of community and voluntary groups active in the community, has acted as a strong counterbalance to any negative influence.



Key priorities for the community at the outset of this planning process is to harness and encourage the community and voluntary spirit to build on the successes of the past and to utilise this plan to build a vibrant community in the future.

## 2.1 Population and Population Change



The population of Kilmurry is estimated<sup>1</sup>, as per Census 2016, at 1085 individuals. This represents a 4% reduction in population since the 2011 Census (n=47 individuals). The population of Kilmurry has increased marginally (by 4%) in the previous decade (from 2006), a total of 38 individuals in the ten year period. The division of male:female is approximately 51:49 (n=557:528 respectively).

### 2.1.1 Population by Age

#### **Age Dependency**

Dependents are defined for statistical purposes as people outside the normal working age of 15-64. Dependency ratios are used to give a useful indication of the age structure of a population with young (0-14) and old (65+) shown as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64) (<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cp3oy/cp3/aad/>)

In 2016, the age dependency ratio for each Small Area was as follows (as per Pobal Maps):

- 33% for small area, Kilkishen ED
- 35% for small area i, Rossroe ED
- 29% for small area ii, Rossroe ED

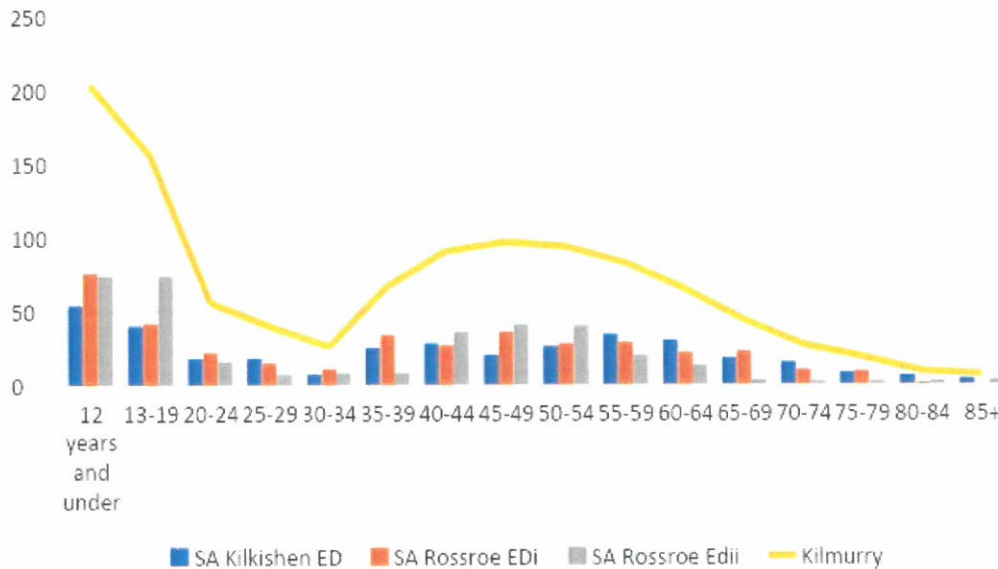
compared to a national average of 53% (CSO).

<sup>1</sup> Across three small areas.

Children aged under 14 years account for just over 17% of the overall population across Kilmurry (4% lower than the national average) while those aged 65+ comprise 10% of the parish's population – 3% lower than national figures.

There are 283 children and young people aged 18 years and under in Kilmurry, comprising 26% of the population. Therefore just over one in every four members of the population in Kilmurry is a young person aged under 18 years – in keeping with the national average.

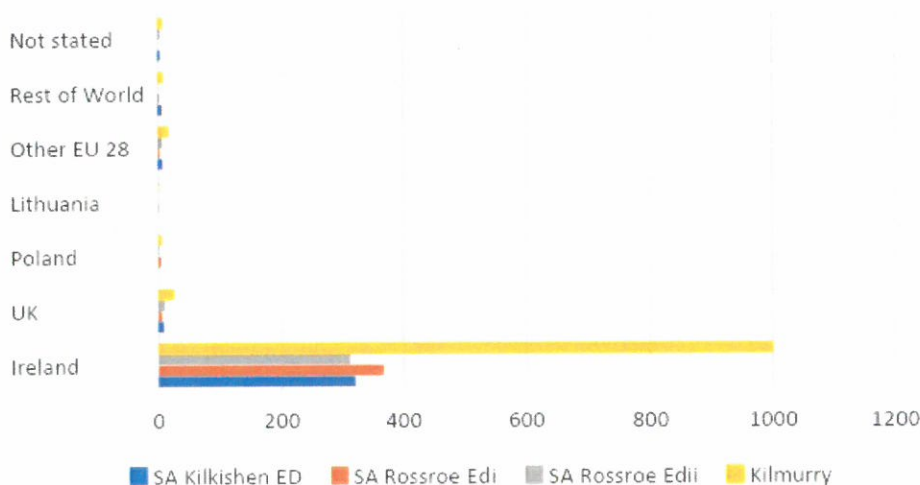
Population by Age 2016



### 2.1.2 Population by Nationality & Ethnicity

#### Population by Nationality

Population by Nationality 2016

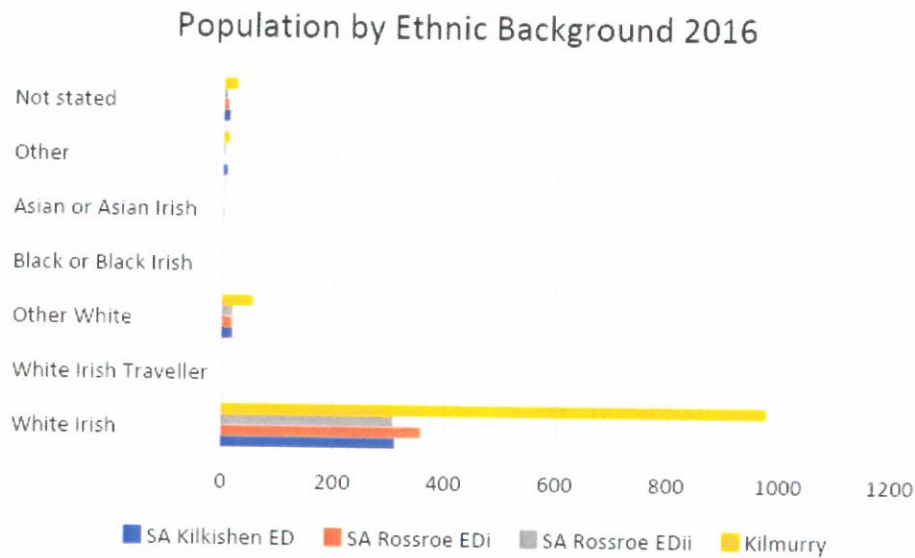


#### Observations

- Vast majority of population in Kilmurry is both Irish born and Irish national (94%).

- UK nationals comprise just over 2% of the population while other EU nationals comprise approximately 1.5%.

### Population by Cultural or Ethnic Background



### Observations

- Little cultural/ethnic diversity in Kilmurry. 91% of the population identifies itself as White Irish while a further 5% identifies itself as Other White.

## 2.2 Deprivation/Affluence

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is the main index used in Ireland to identify levels of disadvantage and deprivation as well as identifying areas with the highest concentrations of disadvantage.

Drawing on key indicators from Census 2016, it classifies areas according to levels of advantage or disadvantage on a scale of;

- Extremely disadvantaged
- Very disadvantaged;
- Disadvantaged;
- Marginally below average;
- Marginally above average;
- Affluent;
- Very affluent
- Extremely affluent.

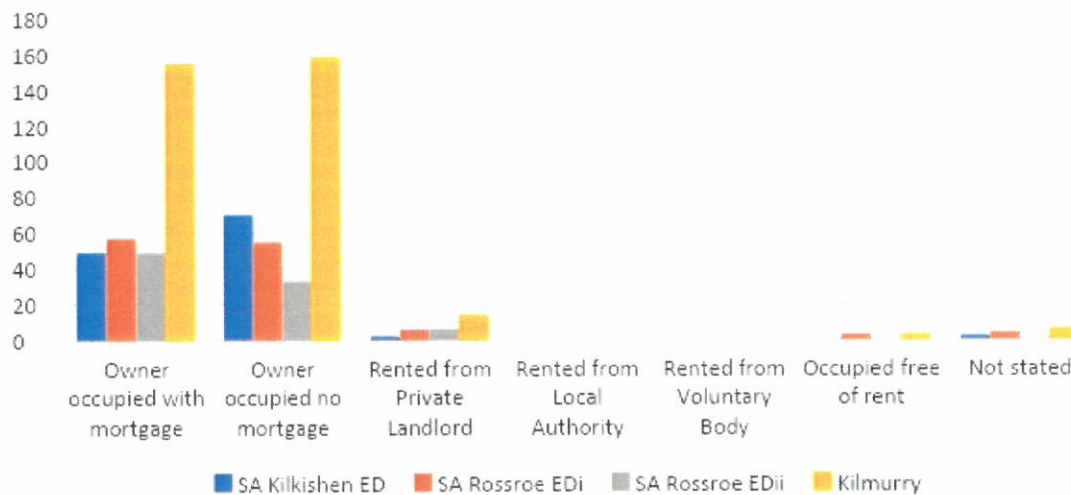
Kilmurry is a relatively advantaged community. Based on Census data from 2016, the following should be noted:

- The small area in Kilkishen ED, encompassing the townlands of Kilkishen, Kilmurry, Shandangan East and Shandangan West is identified as *marginally below average*.

- The small areas in Rossroe ED incorporating the townlands of Clonmunia, Rossroe, and Mountcashel is described as *marginally above average*.
1. The small area incorporating the townland of Ballymulcashel is considered to be affluent.

### 2.3 Household Occupancy

Permanent private households by type of occupancy 2016

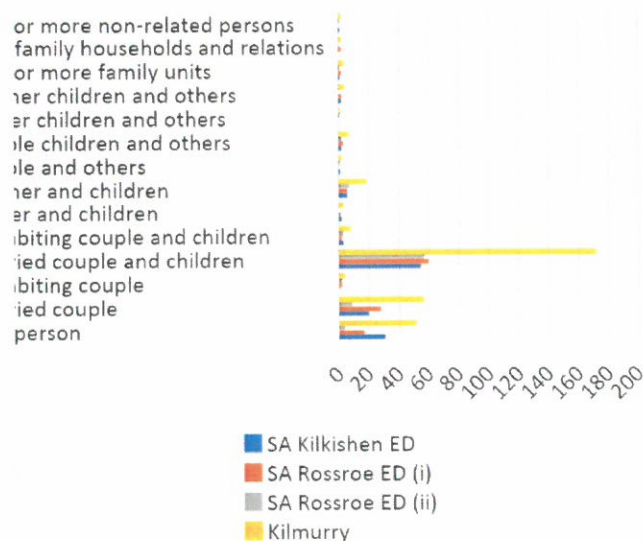


#### Observations

- As per Census 2016, a total of 336 households were identified in the three selected areas and of Kilmurry.
- 93% of Kilmurry's resident population is living in owner occupied accommodation – either with or without mortgage.
- 4% of households live in rented accommodation, all of which is rented from Private Landlords. It is interesting to note that no household in the area rents from Clare County Council.

#### 2.3.1 Private Households by Type

Private households by type 2016



#### Observations

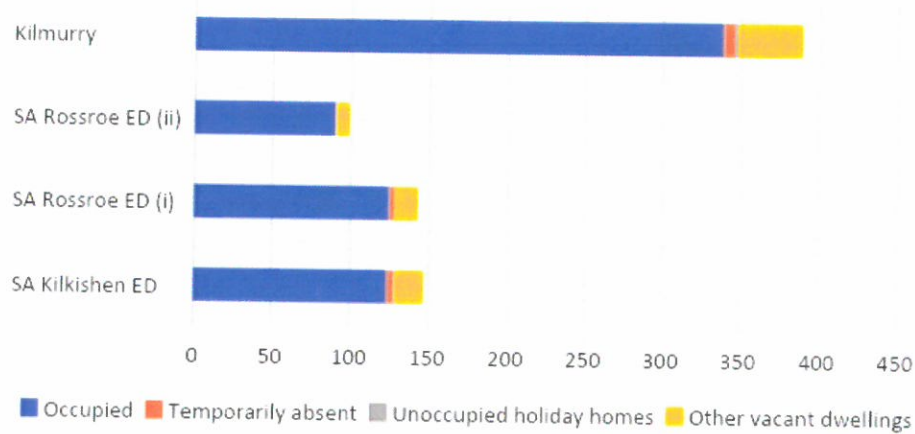
- Married couples with children comprise 51% of all individuals living in private households as per Census 2016. Cohabiting couples with children comprise another 2% of residents.
- Married couples without children comprise a further 17% while people living in one-person households account for 15%.

- Lone parent households<sup>2</sup> account for 8% of the population – well below the national average.

### 2.3.2 Occupancy Status of Permanent Dwellings

- 389 permanent dwellings identified across the area in 2016 Census
- 87% of dwellings were occupied on Census night.
- There was a total of 41 vacant properties on Census night, comprising 11% of permanent dwellings.

Occupancy status of permanent dwellings on Census night 2016



<sup>2</sup> Inclusive of father with children, mother with children, father with children and others and mother with children and others



## 2.4 Education & Employment

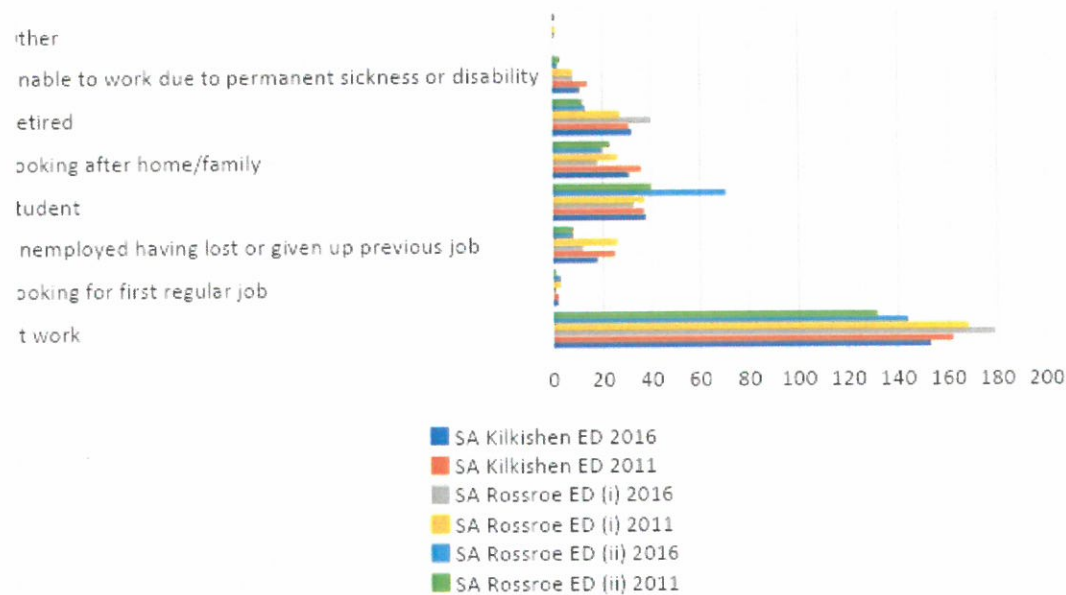
### Education

Census 2016 shows that the population of Kilmurry is relatively highly educated, particularly those residing in Rossroe ED:

	SA Kilkishen	SA Rossroe i	SA Rossroe ii
Proportion Primary Education Only	15%	9%	4%
Proportion with Third Level Education	33%	39%	52%

### Employment

#### Population aged 15+ by Principal Economic Status 2011 & 2016

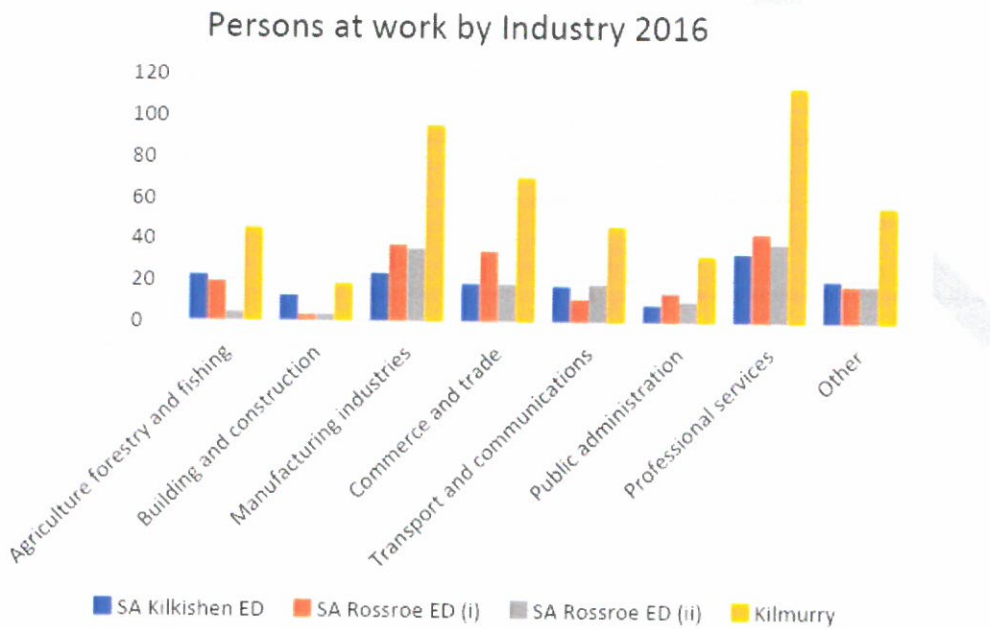


### Observations

- 3% increase in the number of people at work between 2011 and 2016 across the community (n=14 additional individuals at work in five years). There was a reduction in the number of people working in the Small Area in Kilkishen ED.
- Almost a 36% reduction in the number of people unemployed across the community between 2011 and 2016 (n=21 individuals).
- 25% increase in the number of retirees in Kilmurry between 2011 and 2016 (n=15).
- 2.5% of work aged population (n=21) is unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability in 2016.

### 2.4.1 Persons at Work by Industry

- 24% of work aged population is involved in professional services (Accounting, legal, medical and other such services provided by a formally certified member of a professional body) in 2016 and 20% in manufacturing industries.
- 15% are working in commerce and trade, while a further 12% are involved in professions described as *other*.
- Just under 10% of workforce in the area is involved in transport and communications and an equivalent number in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

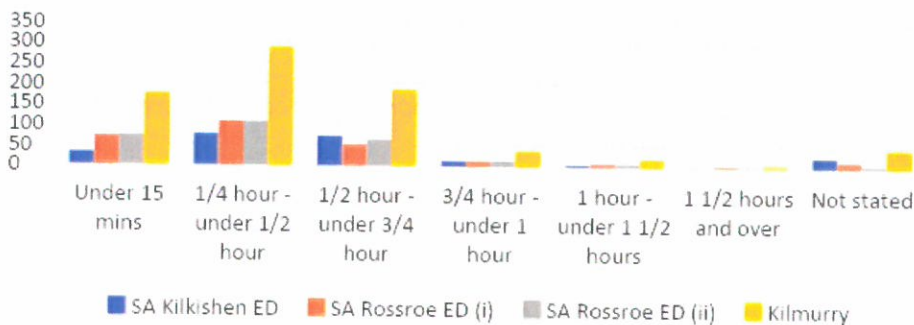


### 2.4.2 Commuting

*Observation:*

- Considerable amount of travel to work or school is local with 86% of 2016 respondents commuting less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour.

**Population aged 5 years and over by journey time to work school or college 2016**



## 2.5 Disability

Persons with a disability 2016 across Kilmurry

- Total = 81
- Percentage of overall population = 7.5%
- Number of full time carers in Kilmurry = 48.

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### 3. Kilmurry Community Planning Process and Methodologies

The first step in the community planning process was the submission of an expression of interest in becoming involved in the community planning process.

This expression of interest gave some background on the community itself and its reasons for becoming involved in the process, providing those involved with a starting point for community planning.

The process has been broken into 4 distinct phases:

- 1. Orientation Phase** – This step involved the establishment of a core group with representation from all the active voluntary groups in the community to manage and oversee the community planning process. Initial discussions consisted of an overview of the needs of the community and discussion on the most effective approach to information gathering within the community.
- 2. Information Gathering Phase** – This phase consisted of a number of meetings and discussions with the community planning group and the planning and administration of a community survey to ensure that all members of the community in Kilmurry had the opportunity to provide their feedback. 153 responses were gathered, which can be regarded as a highly representative sample of the local community.
- 3. Analysis and Action Planning Phase** – A public information evening was hosted in the community hall where community profile (see section 2) and the results of the survey were presented. Major themes were identified from the survey feedback and participants were broken into groups focused on each theme, with feedback from each group collated on 'Action Templates'. This allowed the wider community to be involved in the initial phase of 'Action Planning'. The process of analysis and action planning was advanced further at a number of follow up meetings. Unfortunately, this is where the COVID 19 'pause' happened.
- 4. Writing Phase** – After an extended 'hiatus' in the process it was agreed to develop a draft report based on the information and feedback gathered to date. This draft was reviewed, amended and finalised in consultation with the community planning group.

### 3.1 Summary Survey Results

193 individuals and households provided responses to the community survey, a response rate of approximately

## Kilmurry Community Survey Results 193 responses

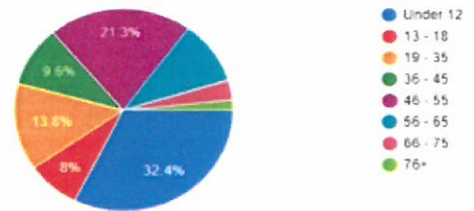
#### Gender

193 responses



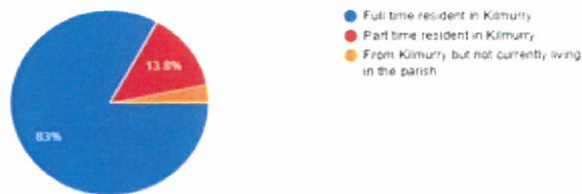
#### Age

188 responses

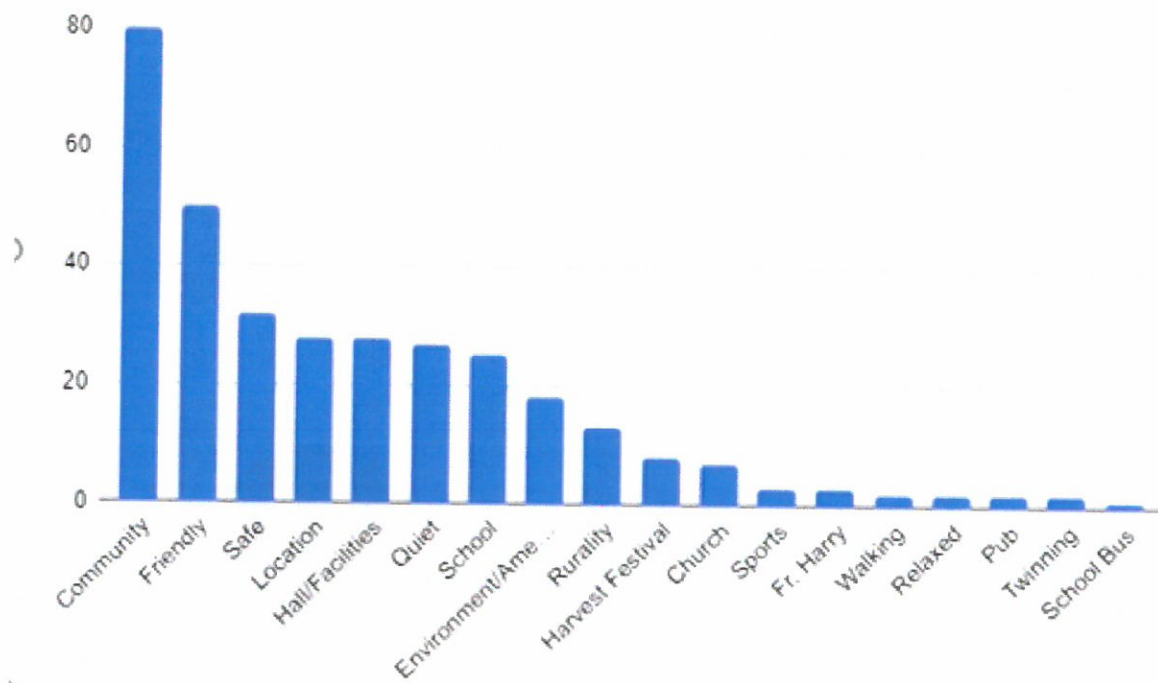


#### Residency

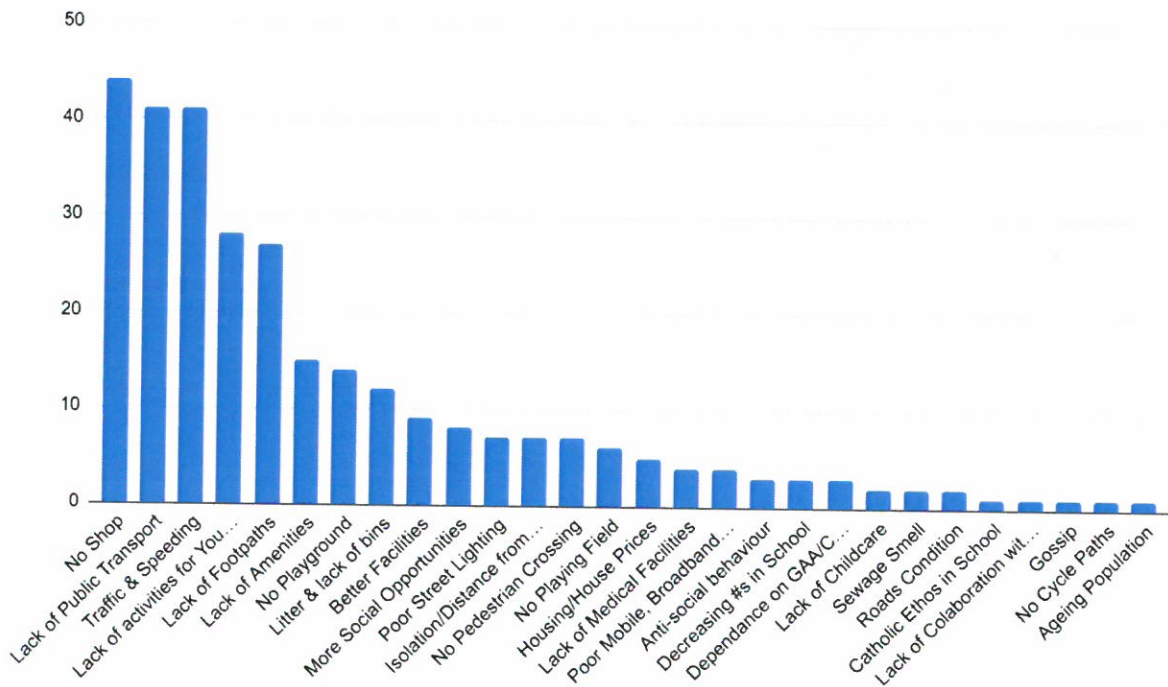
188 responses



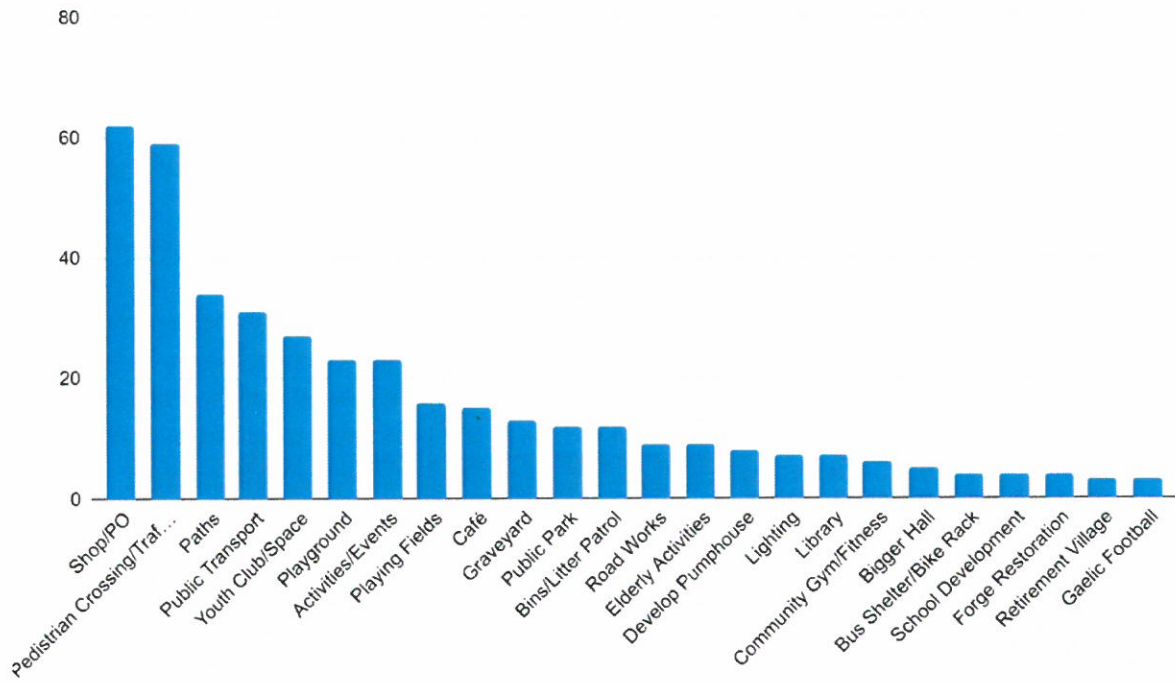
## What's Good about living in Kilmurry



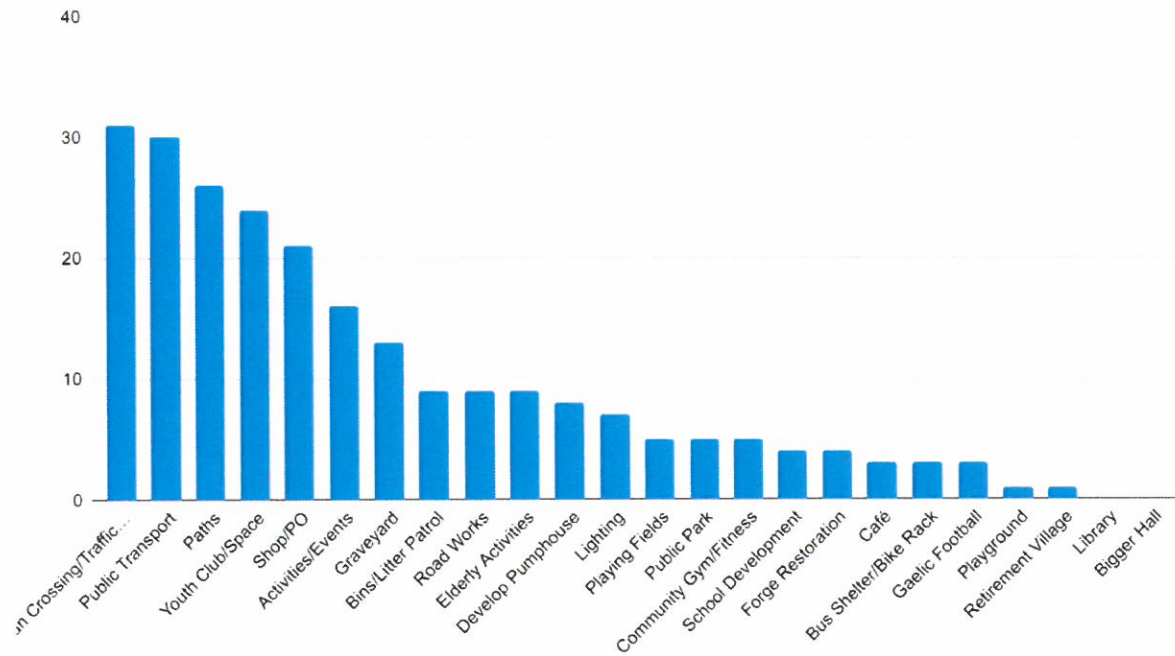
## What's Not So Good about Living in Kilmurry



### Priority Actions (All)



### Priority Actions (>12s)



## 4. Kilmurry Community Development Plan Framework

The feedback from the community survey along with the discussions which took place at the community meetings highlighted a number of issues that were most pressing for the community in Kilmurry. With the strong community spirit in evidence and their ability to mobilise support for past projects, the community plan focuses attention on a number of key areas:

1. **Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety** – With its location at the convergence of 5 roads and the high volumes of transiting commuter traffic in Kilmurry, there is a clear acknowledgement of the need for direct measures to address the conflict between traffic and pedestrian safety in Kilmurry.
2. **Potential Retail Development** – Put succinctly by one respondent to the survey ‘you have to go to the ‘bridge’ for a pint of milk’. The absence of any retail, commercial area in the village forces residents to leave the village for the most basic items. A shop, café and or post office would allow residents to engage more with their neighbours and change the overall dynamic of the village for the better. **The possibility of kilmurry being a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) has major advantages to its development in the future.**
3. **Develop and Enhance Public Realm** – Measures have been identified which would greatly enhance and develop the public spaces and overall amenity of Kilmurry Village, **which has the potential to** greatly enhance the community’s enjoyment of and engagement with the Village.
4. **Community Activities & Events** – There is a need to tap into the community spirit in Kilmurry by highlighting existing activities available in the village and encouraging more events and activities. There is a particular need to focus on activities for young people.

FIGURE 1 KILMURRY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK & ACTION SUMMARY



## 4.1 Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety

### 4.1.1 Traffic Speed Reduction Measures

Action Name	Traffic Speed Reduction Measures
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	<p>It is widely felt that much of the traffic coming through Kilmurry, barely slows at all indicating that there is a strong need to introduce traffic calming infrastructure to force traffic to slow and emphasise the presence of pedestrians and other road users in Kilmurry. The following measures should be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhanced signage and lighting on entering the 50km zone from every direction</li> <li>● Physical traffic calming measures, including raised kerbing, rumble strips and raised pedestrian crossing areas</li> </ul> <p>Measures that have been effective in other similar villages should be looked at and adopted for use in Kilmurry</p>
<b>Available Resources</b>	<p>Local County Council Representative Local School Involvement Local Garda Representatives</p>
<b>Potential Support</b>	<p>RSA Roads Section Clare Co Co</p>
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	<p>Kilmurry Community Planning Group</p>

### 4.1.2 Pedestrian Crossing at Kilmurry School

Action Name	Pedestrian Crossing at School
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	<p>Intricately linked to action 4.1.1, the need for a pedestrian crossing at Kilmurry School has been identified as a key priority. The local roads engineers should be contacted directly to examine options.</p>
<b>Available Resources</b>	<p>Local County Council Representative Local School Involvement Local Garda Representatives</p>
<b>Potential Support</b>	<p>RSA Roads Section Clare Co Co</p>
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	<p>Kilmurry Community Planning Group</p>

#### 4.1.3 Traffic Survey

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Traffic Survey</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	Given that traffic has been identified as a key issue in the village of Kilmurry, the data derived from a Traffic Survey in the village would be of critical importance in order to assess the scale of the issues and the most appropriate measures to address them. Data from a traffic survey may also prove useful in encouraging and informing retail/commercial development in the village
<b>Available Resources</b>	Local County Council Representative Local School Involvement Local Garda Representatives
<b>Potential Support</b>	RSA Roads Section Clare Co Co
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

#### 4.1.4 Development & Improvement of Footpaths

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Development &amp; Improvement of Footpaths</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	With the volume of traffic in Kilmurry, the development and improvements are seen as a key measure to keep people safe in the village. Particular attention is needed for the footpaths in and around the residential areas of the village.
<b>Available Resources</b>	Local County Council Representative Local School Involvement Local Garda Representatives
<b>Potential Support</b>	RSA Roads Section Clare Co Co
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

## 4.2 Potential Retail/Commercial Development

### 4.2.1 Examine the Feasibility of a Community Shop/Café in Kilmurry

Action Name	Examine Feasibility of Community Shop/Café in Kilmurry
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	<p>There is no shop or café in Kilmurry. While the commercial viability of establishing a private shop and/or café would, most probably be questionable, many rural communities have addressed this by establishing a community owned and operated venture.</p> <p>Community buy-in would be the key determinant of success. However, establishing a community shop/café is a major undertaking that could have a number of potential pitfalls if not established and managed correctly.</p> <p>A Feasibility Study would allow the community to evaluate the idea in full and to ensure that all elements of managing and operating a community shop/café would be fully explored before committing to it.</p>
<b>Available Resources</b>	<p>Local Community Organisations</p> <p>CLDC (Feasibility Grant)</p> <p>Community Café's Guide</p> <p>Other Community Shops/Cafés</p>
<b>Potential Support</b>	CLDC
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

### 4.2.2 Develop Public Transport Links to Limerick, Ennis, Shannon etc.

Action Name	Develop Public Transport Links to Limerick, Ennis, Shannon etc.
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	<p>Access to public transport to the main towns in the region is disjointed and unsuitable for residents in the village. A review of Public Transport links from Kilmurry will be undertaken to highlight existing scheduled services to and from the village and where there is demand, recommendations will be made for changes/improvements to the various schedules</p>
<b>Available Resources</b>	<p>Existing bus stop at Pumphouse Bar</p> <p>Clare Accessible Transport existing routes</p>
<b>Potential Support</b>	<p>CLDC</p> <p>Clare Accessible Transport</p>
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

#### 4.2.3 Examine Feasibility of Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Examine Feasibility of Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	Sustainable Energy in public, residential and commercial buildings will become a focal point of the future. The potential of setting Kilmurry up as a Sustainable Energy Community would be advantageous to the future development of the village.
<b>Available Resources</b>	SEAI
<b>Potential Support</b>	SEAI CLDC
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

## 4.3 Develop and Enhance Public Realm

### 4.3.1 Graveyard Expansion and Development

Action Name	Graveyard Expansion and Development
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	Available spaces have reached capacity in Kilmurry graveyard. Exploring the purchase of additional land adjacent to the current graveyard is fast becoming a major requirement. The burial of ashes or interment of Urns could also be explored - need to examine requirements for same.
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Potential Support</b>	Clare County Council - Graveyards Division CLDC
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Graveyard Group

### 4.3.2 Community Centre Development

Action Name	Community Centre Development
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	Explore the upgrade of energy systems at the community centre to more sustainable options in order to reduce costs and increase efficiency.
<b>Available Resources</b>	SEI Grants
<b>Potential Support</b>	SEI CLDC
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Hall Committee

### 4.3.3 Public Space Development

Action Name	Public Space Development
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	Identify areas for creation of social space for the whole community.
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Potential Support</b>	Clare County Council - Rural Development
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

## 4.4 Community Activities and Events

### 4.4.1 Continue to Enhance and Develop the Harvest Festival

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Continue to Enhance and Develop the Harvest Festival</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	the Annual Harvest Festival is a major community event and the highlight of the year for the young people in the village. This needs to continue to prosper and benefit the local area.
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Potential Support</b>	Local businesses and festivals CLDC & clare Co Co
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

### 4.4.2 Increased Focus on Activities for Young People

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Increased Focus on Activities for Young People</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Potential Support</b>	
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

#### 4.4.3 Events and Activities for Older Residents

<b>Action Name</b>	<b>Events and Activities for Older Residents</b>
<b>Key Feature/Need being addressed</b>	
<b>Available Resources</b>	
<b>Potential Support</b>	
<b>Local Contact Point</b>	Kilmurry Community Planning Group

## 5. Conclusions

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